

Questions to ask when visiting child care programs that you might be considering entrusting your child to.

Safety and Security

- Is the playground fenced in with stable fencing.
- Are the outside gates locked and inaccessible to children?
- Are hazardous materials locked up and put away?
- If there is a 'problem' in the community is the center prepared to go in 'lock down'?
- Are there any animals that your child could be allergic to housed at the center?
- Is there a CRISIS PLAN in place?

Atmosphere

- Is the center clean and does it smell clean?
- Are the toys cleaned and sanitized regularly?
- Does the staff wear shoes in the infant room?
- Do the children have their own cots and cribs for naptime?
- Do the children wash their hands upon arrival?
- Interactions among children and staff?
- When you entered the center did you hear 'happy sounds'?
- When you toured the center were the children engaged?
- Did you observe the children involved in educational activities?
- Were the classrooms observed attractive and welcoming to foster learning?

Staff

- Were the staff welcoming and attentive to your needs?
- Did the staff interact with the children and co-workers in a positive way?
- Did you observe the staff talking to the children on their level and with a smile?
- What is the staff/child ratio in the classrooms observed?
- Were you greeted by staff to give you a tour?

Curriculum and Assessments

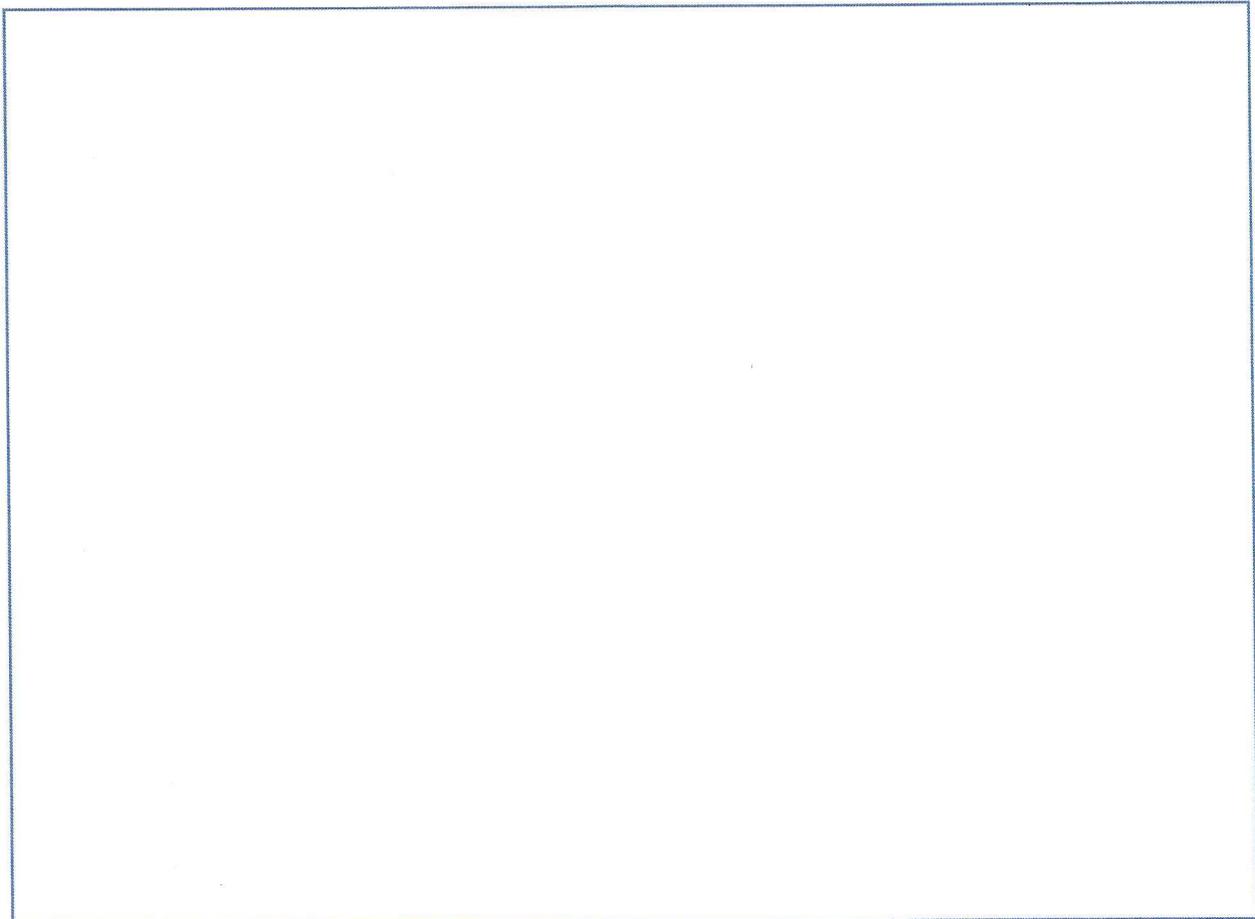
- Is the curriculum they are using based on Maryland Standards?
- Are the teachers continually trained and degreed?
- Do the teachers prepare lesson plans?
- Is the curriculum they are using approved by Maryland State Department of Education?
- Is there opportunity and plans for outside play each day?
- How often are the children observed and assessed?

Communication

- What forms of communication does the program use to share information with parents?
- Can parents call the center and check on their child and when?
- Is there a Newsletter and calendar that reflects all plans for each day and month?
- Do parents have an opportunity to evaluate the center?

By now you should have a good feel for this program. Our favorite questions is... Would you want to spend time at this center? If you feel comfortable and excited about being a part of this program, chances are good that your child will too.

Comments and/or drawings to depict this visit.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for providing comments or drawings related to the visit.